IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended)   A method for managing printer selection in a network of connected printers, the method comprising:

changing specification-defined printer capabilities to user-defined printer usages at a user interface, by programming an administrative policy that cross-references user-defined preferences for the usage of network-connected printers, to print job characteristics selected from the group including user identity, client identity, the document processing application sourcing the print job, the document format, media, document complexity, color/BW, rendering, and content;

accepting a print job at a client print subsystem;

determining characteristics of the print job;

accepting an administrative policy, print driver, and path information for a network-connected printer, distributed from a network server repository;

storing the administrative policy, print driver, and path information in a client repository;

generating a print subsystem activity selected from the group including accepting the print job at a print driver, spooling the print job, despooling the print job, post-processing the print job, and sending the job to the port manager;

initiating the selection of printer selecting a printer in response to [[the]] accessing a print subsystem activity administrative policy stored in a client-side repository, and installing the print driver and path information in the client print subsystem; and,

sending the print job to the selected printer.

2.   canceled

3.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

accepting a pre-determined matrix cross-referencing specification-defined printer capabilities to print job characteristics, for at least one printer in a network of connected printers.

4.   canceled

5.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein programming an administrative policy includes establishing an administrative policy that secondarily cross-references print job characteristics to printer environment conditions selected from the group including printer availability, printer loading, specification-defined speed, printer capabilities, job scheduling, printer capabilities, and printer locality.

6.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein programming an administrative policy includes establishing an administrative policy that prompts an action, in response to not matching print job characteristics, selected from the group including canceling the print job, creating a user interface (UI) to request additional selection criteria, and creating a UI for the manual selection of a printer.

7-10. canceled

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11.   (currently amended)   The method of claim [[10]] 1
wherein accepting the administrative policy, distributed from a network
server repository, includes accepting administrative policy updates; and,

wherein storing the administrative policy in a client
repository includes storing the administrative policy updates.

12.   canceled

13.   (currently amended)   A system for managing
printer selection in a network of connected printers, the system
comprising:

a network server including a repository with a master
administrative policy, print driver, and path information for network-
connected printers;

a programmable administrative policy, received from the
network server repository and stored residing in a client memory
repository with print driver and path information, with a user interface
(UI) to accept user-defined programmable preferences for the usage of
network-connected printers, cross-referenced to print job characteristics;
[[and,]]

a client device print subsystem including a print driver,
spooler, print processor, and port manager information, accessing the
client repository for the installation of print driver and path information;
and,

a printer select module residing in the client print subsystem
having an interface to accept determined characteristics for a print job, an

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interface for accessing the administrative policy, and an interface to direct the print job to a selected printer, and initiate the selection of a printer in response to a print subsystem activity selected from the group including accepting the print job at a print driver, spooling the print job, despooling the print job, post-processing the print job, and sending the print job to the port manager.

14. (original) The system of claim 13 further comprising:

a plurality of printers, each having an interface, selected from the group including local, remote, and network-connections, to the print select module for receiving print jobs.

15. canceled

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the administrative policy is responsive to print job characteristics selected from the group including user identity, client identity, the document processing application sourcing the print job, the document format, media, document complexity, color/BW, rendering, content, job scheduling, and printer capabilities.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the administrative policy secondarily cross-references print job characteristics to network conditions selected from the group including printer availability, printer loading, specification-defined speed, printer capabilities, and printer locality.

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18. (previously presented) The system of claim 13 wherein the administrative policy prompts an action, in response to not matching print job characteristics, selected from the group including canceling the print job, requesting additional selection criteria, and manual selection of a printer; and,

wherein the printer select module includes a UI for accepting user commands responsive to the administrative policy action prompts.

19. canceled

20. (currently amended) The system of claim [[19]] 13 wherein printer select module initiates the printer selection in response to print driver activity, and selects a printer in response to print job characteristics that are determined by the print driver.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim [[19]] 13 wherein printer select module initiates the printer selection in response to spooler activity, and selects a printer in response to information derived from a print subsystem element chosen from the group including the spooler, print processor, and port manager.

22-24. canceled

25. (currently amended) The system of claim [[24]] 13 wherein the network server repository receives and stores administrative policy updates; and.

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wherein the client repository receives and stores administrative policy updates distributed by the network server repository.

26.   (original)   The system of claim 13 wherein the administrative policy has a UI for modifying specification-defined printer capabilities with user-defined printer usages.

27-30. canceled